

Tyson Wash Site Registry Report
Quartzsite, La Paz County, Arizona
June 23, 1998

The Tyson Wash site is located northwest of the State Highway 95 and Business Route I-10 intersection in the Town of Quartzsite, La Paz County, Arizona. Quartzsite is located 125 miles west of Phoenix along Interstate 10, approximately 18 miles east of the Colorado River. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is currently evaluating groundwater contamination occurring at the Tyson Wash site. The Eligibility and Evaluation score for the Tyson Wash site is 46.

The boundaries of the groundwater contamination plume at the Tyson Wash site are shown on the enclosed figure. The plume contains tetrachloroethene (PCE) in concentrations above the Aquifer Water Quality Standard (AWQS) for PCE of 5 micrograms per liter (ug/l). The contamination plume has affected the upper aquifer, located 40-70 feet below ground surface, which is used as a source of drinking water for the area. This is of concern since there are approximately 40 drinking water wells within a 1/4 mile radius of the site, and 835 drinking wells within a 4 mile radius of the site. The summer population of the Town of Quartzsite is approximately 2,000, but, in winter, the population swells to 250,000 to 500,000 people. The Town of Quartzsite has installed a public water system, but service has not yet been provided west of Highway 95 where the plume is located. Until residents are hooked up to the system, they must rely on the individual wells for their drinking water.

The lower aquifer, 525-560 feet below ground surface, has shown no evidence of contamination to date. Groundwater flow in the vicinity of the plume apparently varies with the season of the year and pumpage rates of wells in the area. In May and July of 1997, groundwater flow was to the northwest. In October of 1997, groundwater direction was to the northeast.

ADEQ and La Paz County held a public meeting in the Town of Quartzsite on September 25, 1996, to inform the community about current drinking water and groundwater issues, including Department activities related to the Tyson Wash site.

This Site Registry Report and attached Site Boundary Map are based upon information available as of the date shown above. The Site Boundary Map is intended to provide the public with information on the estimated geographic extent of known contamination at the time of the report. Therefore, the geographic boundaries for this site may change in the future as new information becomes available.

An updated Site Registry Report and Site Boundary Map will not be issued. However, all new information on the site will be placed in the public file which is available for public review.

File information on the Tyson Wash site may be reviewed at the offices of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality at 3033 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix. Further information may also be obtained by calling the State Superfund Unit of the Department at (602) 207-4241.